

# Happenings H<sub>2</sub>O Observations

A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services

## What is Your Water Priority?

The City of Wichita's Environmental Services Department (parent department to the WATER Center) is launching a new project aimed at improving the water quality of the Arkansas River and its tributaries that flow through the city.

The Wichita Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) will help identify water quality priorities and actions. The initiative is funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The project will begin with a developmental phase to identify community interest, followed by three additional phases of assessment, planning and implementation.

For more information about Wichita WRAPS, upcoming community meetings, or to get involved visit [www.wichitawraps.org](http://www.wichitawraps.org).

## Senior Wednesdays

First Wednesdays—1:30 PM  
Active Adults - No registration needed

Senior Wednesdays are informational and entertaining sessions, designed for active seniors and offered by a collaboration of ten institutions.

Funding for this project was provided in part by the Kansas Health Foundation, Wichita, KS. The Kansas Health Foundation is a philanthropic organization whose mission is to improve the health of all Kansans.

**September 2:** *Paddling Through Life* by Wally Siebel and Vince Marshall:

Discover two local seniors passionate and tireless mission to connect others with the Arkansas River through canoeing and kayaking.

**October 7:** *Kansas to Kenya* by Denise Dias: A journey from one culture to another through a unified connection with water.

November 4: *Geocaching – the Modern Day Treasure Hunt*, by Bill Hayes. Featured in September's Active Aging magazine, Bill Hayes will show seniors how to get involved in geocaching. We will take time to look for some caches at the WATER Center!

**December 2:** *Annual Holiday Party*—10 AM—Location TBA  
(No other Senior Wednesday programs will be held in December)

## Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following public meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

### September

2nd **District III Advisory Board**  
6:30-9:30 PM  
14th **Arkansas River Coalition**  
6:00-9:00 PM

### October

7th **District III Advisory Board**  
6:30-9:30 PM

### November

3rd **District III Advisory Board**  
6:30-9:30 PM  
9th **Arkansas River Coalition**  
6:00-9:00 PM

### December

3rd **District III Advisory Board**  
6:30-9:30 PM

## FISH FEEDINGS

Every Monday and Friday  
3:00 PM

Learning Center is Open From:  
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on  
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays  
Closed Holidays

**The WATER Center**  
**101 E. Pawnee**  
**is located in**

**Herman Hill Park**  
Open daily sunrise to sunset  
18-hole disc golf course  
Accessible trails  
Playground equipment  
Picnic areas

**Skateboarding, swimming and  
fishing are prohibited**



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The WATER Center

# Fall & Winter Programs—09

## FISH TALES STORY TIME

0–7 Year Olds

### FISH TALES

Second Tuesday of every month

No registration needed

FREE

10:00 AM

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature activity! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

Looking for more “wet” reading? Check out your local library for more tales!

September 8th

Sleepy River by Hanna Bandes

October 13th

Clara and Asha by Eric Rohmann

November 10th

Good Morning, River! by Lisa Westberg Peters

December 8th

When Winter Comes by Nancy Van Laan

## WATER WONDER FAMILY PROGRAMS

All Ages

New for 2009, the “Water Wonder” Family Programs are designed specifically for family groups who want to learn more about water-related topics. What is a water-related topic? Almost anything! Come discover why what is so unique and amazing, what creatures survive in soggy habitats, water conservation techniques, local water history, and more!

The “Water Wonder Family Programs” are free, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Children who attend must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 30

To register, call or email program coordinator, Libby Albers at: 316-337-9262 or [lalbers@wichita.gov](mailto:lalbers@wichita.gov)

### WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

FREE

October 19th, 10 AM—11:30 AM

You and your family will join in the World Water Monitoring Day international water quality event. Prepare to be outside for a portion of this activity. More information about World Water Monitoring Day can be found at: [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org)

### FILTER IT

FREE

December 29th, 10 AM—11:30 AM

Learn why the WATER Center exists and take a tour of the treatment plant. Then, have a little fun, by making some really messy water and building a filter to clean it back up again.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

8–18 Year-Olds

### YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

FREE

Tuesday, September 8, 2-4 PM

Friday, October 16, 2:30-4:30 PM

Monday, December 21, 2-4 PM

Pre-registration Required—Class limit 10

To register, call or email program coordinator, Libby Albers at: 316-337-9262 or [lalbers@wichita.gov](mailto:lalbers@wichita.gov)

Youth should dress to be outside in clothing that may get dirty and/or wet. Participants will help the WATER Center staff with special projects in the park.

Youth volunteer days are often scheduled in conjunction with USD259's Inservice Days.

## Field Trips

**Teachers!** Looking for a new destination that will also meet State Standards and Indicators? Try the WATER Center!

### Our field trips incorporate:

- Science as Inquiry
- Investigative learning
- Life Science
- History and Nature of Science
- Science in Personal and Environmental Perspectives

**Customize your field trip to include activities that meet your classroom goals.**

Some options include:

- Tour of the remediation plant
- Water sampling of the creek and river
- Macro-invertebrate investigation
- Build a watershed
- Conservation activities
- Journey through the water cycle



**Call today to book your trip! 316-337-9262**